

North Leith Parish Church
Friday 25 December 2020
Christmas Day Worship



Nativity

Click the link below to listen to the Welcome and Call to Worship

[Welcome, Call to Worship and Prayer of Approach](#)

Call to Worship

(from Psalm 96)

O sing to the Lord a new song,

Sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Sing to the Lord, bless his name,

Tell of his salvation from day to day,

Declare his glory among the nations,

For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised.

Prayer of Approach

Lord God,

Today, You come to earth,

as a vulnerable baby,

A gift to the world.

You come to an ordinary place,

with just enough to welcome you,

Walls and warmth and a place to lie,

You come to a temporary place

for your gift of life is not to stay in one place or with one people,

You come to love and to be loved and

You open your arms to the whole world
You have a home everywhere.

Lord God,

On this day heaven touches earth
and we open our hearts, souls and minds to You
We sing a welcome and lift up our faces
for your light to shine on us
and your peace to surround us.

Lord of Mercy,

In the joy of this Christmas Day
we come to you as your children,
confessing our faults and failings.
You know us Lord and love us still.

Forgive us our sins and restore us, Lord.

Open us to the wonder of your world,
Open our eyes each day to see you,
Open our mouths to speak your light and hope.

Loving God, in grateful thanks for your care and love, we pray together the words which
Jesus taught us to pray:-

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
Thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Click the link below to listen

[Hymn 322 Good Christians, all rejoice:](#)

Lighting the Christmas Candle



Click the link below to listen

[Hymn 282 Christmas is coming the Church is glad to sing](#)

**ALL: 'Christmas is coming!
the church is glad to sing,
and let the advent candles
brightly burn in a ring.**

The first is for God's promise
to put the wrong things right,
and bring to earth's darkness
the hope of love and light.

The second for the prophets,
who said that Christ would come
with good news for many
and angry words for some.

The third is for the Baptist,
who cried 'Prepare the way.
Be ready for Jesus
today and every day'.

The fourth is for the Virgin,
who mothered God's own Son
and sang how God's justice
was meant for everyone.

At last we light the candle
kept new for Christmas day.
This shines bright for Jesus,
new-born, and here to stay.

**All: Christ is among us.
The candles in the ring
remind us that our Saviour
will light up everything.**

Click the link below to listen

[Scripture](#)

Luke Chapter 2:1- 21

Reader Katherine Taylor



Adoration of the Shepherds

Click the link below to listen

[Hymn 312 Away in a manger](#)

Click the link below to listen

[Christmas Day Reflection](#)

Katherine Taylor



Birth of Christ

Click the link below to listen

[Hymn 315 Once in Royal David's city](#)

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Lord God, on Christmas Day, we thank you for the gift of your Son. Thank you that he came among us as a baby and grew and lived on earth as we do now. Thank you for his resurrection from death and that he lives with us still, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Thank you for all who have followed in his way through the ages. Thank you for the church. May your people be a shining light in the darkness of this pandemic.

Lord, true peace can only come through you and so we pray always for peace in our hearts, homes, country and between nations. We pray for our leaders. We pray for those with responsibility for making complex and difficult decisions. Keep them open to your voice Lord. May they know the light of your hope in the middle of our uncertainty.

Lord, your Son turned our world upside down, being born in a stable. We pray for all those who live on the margins of life, for whom life is hard and for whom the future seems bleak. We pray for those for whom Christmas is a lonely and difficult day. We pray for those who have no money and wait for benefits, for warmth and for love. We pray for those who sleep on the streets and for all those who are homeless in our country. We pray for the work of those who care for them, who welcome them with food, a place to rest, company and care. We ask for your encouragement and strength for those who work for the Bethany Christian Trust. May those cared for find peace and belonging and a permanent place to live. May the light of Christ break in to and change their lives.

Lord in this different Christmas, we pray for ourselves and those we love. We pray for those who grieve, those who are sick in mind, body or spirit and for the anxious and the fearful. We pray for those who find it hard to hope. May we all know the strength of your presence and the power of your light.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Amen.

Click the link below to listen

[Hymn 306 O Come, all ye faithful](#)



Visitation of the Magi

Blessing

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary and the peace of the Christ Child be ours this Christmas, and may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with us and remain with us, now and for evermore.

Amen

Closing Voluntary



Click the link below to listen

[And the Glory of the Lord](#)

Messiah. GF Handel (1685- 1759)

INTIMATIONS

Sunday Services

Services continue at 11am each Sunday. You are welcome, but please note that now we will be limited to 20 people. If you are going to attend you must book by contacting the church office, by email (nlpc-office@btconnect.com) or by phone (553 7378), by the Friday before to allow us to manage the numbers, and please arrive by 10:55 at the latest.

The online version of the service is available on our new website

<https://northleithparishchurch.co.uk/online-worship>

Church Open for Prayer

The church building is open for us all on Tuesday and Friday mornings from 10am until 12 noon, except for New Year's Day.

Christmas Appeal

The offering today will go to this year's Christmas Appeal which is for Christian Aid's work in Ethiopia. Please put donations in the collection plate or the box on the way out of the church. If you can give by Gift Aid please use one of the Gift Aid envelopes. Alternatively, if you use online banking, you can give by bank transfer to the church's bank account putting 'Christmas' in the reference field.

Pictures

[Birth of Christ](#), [Le Breton, Jacques; Gaudin, Jean. Nativity](#) _ [Le Breton, Jacques; Gaudin, Jean. Adoration of the Shepherds](#), [Le Breton, Jacques; Gaudin, Jean. Visitation of the Magi](#), all from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.